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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,922	02/05/2001	Arthur Duskow	414.036CIP/09908722	4220

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EXAMINER

PIZARRO, RICARDO M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2661

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/781,922

Applicant(s)

DOSKOW ET AL.

Examiner

Ricardo Pizarro

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-76 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,7,9, 21,47 and 52-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,6,8,10-20,22-46,48-51 and 58-76 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

FINAL ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 4, 7, and 9, 21, 47, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent No. 6,614,781 (Elliott).

Regarding claims 1 and 9, Elliott discloses a communication network, comprising: local communication links (Local links between users 102, 120, 122 and 124 and facilities 126, 130, 128 and 132 in Fig. 1), a plurality of separately located central office switching systems (Soft Switch 204 located within soft switch sites 104 col 24 line 34) interconnected via trunk circuits (trunk circuits interconnecting switch sites 104 and 104 and gateway sites 108 and 110 respectively) for selectively providing switched call connections between at least two of the local communication links(col 18 lines 34-36, col 19 lines 44-49) . A signaling communication system (Signaling network 114 in Fig. 1) including at least one signaling network element (Signaling Gateway located within switch site 104 in Fig. 1, col 24 lines 34-35) , the signaling communication system configured to provide two-way communications of control data messages between and among the central office switching systems and the signaling network element (Signaling network 114 provides two way communication between central office i.e. switches 104 and 104 and Signaling gateway 208). The

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signaling communication system interconnecting the central office switching systems and said signaling network element (Signaling network 114 in Fig. 1 interconnecting soft switch 204 and Signaling gateway 208 located within switch site 104-) ; a signaling gateway, separate from the central office switching systems, and connected to the signaling communications system (Signaling gateway 208 separate from soft switch 204 - both located within site 104 - and separate from signaling network 114 in Fig. 1), the signaling gateway including an interface connected to a remote communications network (telephone network including users 120 and 122 in Fig. 1) and configured to exchange control data messages (col 16 lines 9-10) between the remote communication network (telephone network formed by users 102, 120, 122 and 124 in Fig. 1) and the signaling communication system (Signaling network 114 in Fig. 1) and exchanges control messages , and a signaling screening system , separate from the central office switching systems (Signaling screening system , col 39 lines 14-17) , the signaling system configured to determine if control data messages are proper (Gateway screening software feature located within STPs 250 and 250 within switch 104 in Fig. 1 .Screening can be performed on all in-bound messages from another network. Gateway screening can also be performed on all outgoing network management messages, col 39 lines 18-25).

Regarding claim 47, Elliott discloses a method of interfacing control links of respective communication networks, comprising the steps of: exchanging control data messages (i.e. control messages col 16 lines 9-10) between a remote communication network and a local signaling communication system (telephone remote network

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formed by users 102, 120, 122 and 124 and signaling network 114 in Fig. 1); interpreting control data messages to determine whether it is appropriate with respect to a destination point code of the control data message and, in response, determining if the control data messages are proper (said interpreting and determination will be provided by the signaling screening software, col 19 lines 14-17) and communicating control data messages between central office switching systems (soft switches 204 and 204 - located within switch site 104 and 106 in Fig, 1-); and providing switched call connections between at least two of the local communication links in response to said control data messages (switched called connections to at least links to users 102 and 122 in fig. 1).

Elliot did not specifically disclose said signaling screening system being a signaling monitor system , as in claims 1 and 9 ; neither securely interfacing links in the network, as in claim 47.

However Elliott disclosed said system having a message screening software (col 39 lines 14-17).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that said signaling screening system disclosed by Elliott could be modify in order to have the system screening messages for format and proper authorization [contextually proper] and the like, in order to have the system supporting user definitions of up to 64 screen sets , each screen set can accommodate condition statements or rules statements or rules with the gateway screening software, as in claims 1 and 9. In addition, it would have been obvious that said screening

system would have provided a secure way to interface the links in the network., as in claim 47.

The motivation to do so is of obtaining a system for implementing packet switched communications for voice and data call that do not require special or dedicated access lines and still is capable of performing a secure way.

Regarding claim 4, Elliott discloses that the control messages are ISUP messages (col 33 line 53).

Regarding claims 7 , the control messages are TCAP messages (col 33 line 55),.

Regarding claim 52 and 21, Elliott discloses converting a protocol of the control messages between a protocol of said remote network and a protocol of the signaling network (signaling gateway site 108 in Fig. 2A-2 includes trunking gateway TG 232 access gateway 238, NAS 228 does provide conversion for co-carrier and group D trunk, col 25 lines 15-18 and 30-35) .

Regarding claim 53, Elliott discloses one of the protocols is an SS7 compliant protocol (i.e SS7 gateways in the network, col 33 line 15).

Regarding claim 54, Elliott discloses one of the protocols is in an IP format (col 31 line 32).

Regarding claim 55, Elliott discloses the screening system is configured to monitor information contained in an MTP layer of said control messages (col 33 lines 43-45).

Regarding claim 56, Elliot discloses the information message includes a destination point , an origination point (message includes origination and destination points).

Regarding claim 57, the interpreting includes monitoring of an ISDN User part [ISUP] message (col 33 line 53).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 8, 10-15, 16- 20, 22-46, 48-51, 58-76 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 4/7/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the Gateway security screening in the system disclosed by Elliott fails to describe how the screening is applied to in the system, much less that said messages are contextually proper (Page 16 of the response). By definition contextually is to place said messages within a context, in this case meaning for the system to

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determine if messages are appropriate or inappropriate, as claimed in the instant application. Examiner disagrees with applicant since Elliot discloses in column 39 lines 14-21 among other places, that the Gateway screening can be performed on all inbound messages from another network. Gateway screening can also be performed on all outgoing management messages. Since all outgoing and incoming messages are securely screened, therefore it would have been obvious that said messages had to be screened for property and authentication among other security measures in the network.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any response to this final action should be mailed to:

Box AF

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300

.(for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE", for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to 22- 20th Street S, Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03, Arlington , VA 22202 (Customer window).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Ricardo Pizarro** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-3077**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Hassan Kizou** can be reached on (571) 272-3088.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

August 4, 2005
Ricardo Pizarro



HASSAN KIZOU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600